

## Great Plains Skink *Eumeces obsoletus*

**Habitat Preference:** Open, rolling grasslands with few trees and scattered rocks

### Threats:

- Disappearance of natural habitat
  - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground.
  - Tree invasion will create shade which will deter use by great plains skink.
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Over-grazing will eliminate areas for great plains skinks to find shade during mid-day in the summer.



### Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Prescribed burning should be done in order to keep grassland habitat healthy. Avoid burning during the skinks active period (late April through September).
- Remove encroaching woody species. Shade will deter use by great plains skink. Leaving some of the debris will give excellent basking areas and will provide escape from predators.
- Mowing, although, not usually feasible in the areas where great plains skinks are found can create areas of open vegetation for basking. If mowing is possible it should be done while skinks are inactive. If mowing during the active period it is essential to keep blades above six inches.
- Grazing can be important for keeping open areas for basking. Any grazing that takes place in an area of a known population of great plains skink should follow a grazing management plan.